



WOW: Word Of the Week

Holy Boldness

May 13, 2020

Boldness! Do we have it? Do we want it? There is a kind of boldness which is reckless and inconsiderate – a boldness based on overconfidence and false pride. You have seen it -- the foolhardy boldness which a wild and irresponsible driver displays as he weaves madly from lane to lane on a busy and crowded street. There is a boldness which acts without thought.

There is another kind of boldness which is thoughtful, considerate, and often heroic. This boldness takes risks and confronts dangers with a confidence born of unshakeable conviction. It is the "holy boldness" which characterized the Christians of the first century. "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John...they marveled, and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). This boldness is seen in the prayer, "...grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word" (Acts 4:29). This is the boldness that speaks from the richness and depth of Holy Spirit filling (Acts 4:31). Paul urges prayer for the bold, fearless speech that makes known God's mystery (Eph. 6:19).

That this is a time for boldness in proclaiming the Word of God does not escape those who would seriously consider Christ's commands. The size of the task entrusted to us is so enormous that only a "holy boldness" is equal to it. Our sufficiency must be of God (2 Cor. 3:5). The world's population is over 7.78 billion and growing. Untold billions are untold. We must accept the responsibility of getting the gospel to these billions. To advance the cause of Christ our present age we must find a new dynamic boldness founded not in the accomplishment of peripheral activities that do little to advance the kingdom, but in courage and conviction that God will work with us and within us in the tremendous task before us (Eph. 3:19-21). We must call forth every resource, we must reach deep within to find the spiritual reserves, so that the love of Christ constrains in us a glad response to the command to preach the gospel to every creature. We must speak for Jesus; we must send others to speak for Jesus. When we send others, they must be accountable for speaking the words of Jesus. With prayer we can become "much more bold to speak the word without fear" (Phil. 1:14). This we can and will do through Christ, "in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him" (Heb. 10:19).